



## September Artists of the Month



**John Priddy**



**Richard Vanbellegem**

September 5th after a July/August hiatus, the Gilbert Visual Arts League met for the first time this season in the Neely Room at Heritage District (HD) South.

It took two ballots to determine the winner of our summer challenge “Monochromatic” (one color plus black and white). With a record number of entries numbering 18, there was excitement in the air, and after the first vote, there was a 4-way tie. Then, the second voting determined a tie between John Priddy, our president, and Richard Vanbelleghem. Both showed outstanding talent in their art pieces winning Artist(s) of the Month.

After the business of the league was discussed, each summer challenge participant was asked to talk about his/her piece. Some said it was demanding and it took a month or even two months to complete. We had flowers, buildings, portraits, still lifes, animals, landscapes and more represented. It was an outstanding theme and was met most successfully by the members who participated.

### **Dates to Remember**

- September 23 - Deadline for submission for member show
- September 30 - Dropoff artwork 9:30-11 a.m. for member show at the museum at HD South
- September 30 - 6-8p.m. Reception at museum
- Now - Membership dues
- November 25 - Pickup artwork at museum
- October 3 - Next GVAL meeting 6:30 p.m.

### **Volunteer opportunities**

The board needs a Special Events and Venues Coordinator.

### **Duties:**

- Arrange extracurricular activities for members, i.e. art tours, etc.

- Coordinate plein aire sessions.
- Coordinate one day art sale events.
- Seek opportunities to display the work of GVAL members in the community
- Schedule and coordinate displays and any receptions, if allowed.
- Work with the location manager to determine dates and duration of displays.
- Collect and maintain information regarding GVAL artists who are seeking opportunities to display work. Use the GVAL Art Release and Liability Forms
- Periodically (duration and location will be determined by venue coordinator) make arrangements with members to change out artwork whether it is to add or remove their pieces, from various display locations. Please contact any board member if interested.

## **Community Outreach**

GVAL has two educational outreach art programs that are year round. Volunteer Members lead children in art activities at House of Refuge in Mesa, and provide art instruction to children and adults through workshops at HD South in Gilbert when available.

To learn more about GVAL's Two Community Outreach Programs, see our website at <https://gval.org/community-outreach/> or email Donna Finter at [donnafinter@gval.org](mailto:donnafinter@gval.org)

## **GVAL Artists at Work**

Four GVAL artists were commissioned by the town of Gilbert to paint items for the Desert Sky Park Treasure Hunts. The purpose of the hunts is to involve the community with the park and its upcoming additions. Desert Sky Park is located at 6624 S. Power Road between Pecos and Williamsfield Roads.

### **Schedule for artworks at Desert Sky Park:**

September 1-10 will feature Curt Harris and Heather Coen: This dynamic duo created 100 detailed wood half spheres painted with acrylics, representing flowers and ladybugs found in Arizona. Their collaborative pieces can also serve as decorative items or paperweights.

September 11-20 will feature Heather Livingston: Specializing in colorful abstract creations, Heather crafted 100 charming gnome figurines using silicone molds and colorful acrylic paints. Each design is unique and full of character.



September 21-30 Donna Finter: She painted 104 vibrant desert scenes and Arizona animals on natural wood slices and river rocks. The wood slices will be hung with jute to bushes and low tree branches. The rocks will be hidden in unexpected places in the park. Each of Donna's pieces have a unique design. Donna's work adds a touch of nature-inspired beauty to the hunt.

To learn more about this project visit: <https://glbrt.is/PR1322>

## **Board Member Spotlight**

Christina Rosepapa

I have been a member of GVAL for over 6 years and am new to the board. I have lived in Gilbert for 16 years and have 3 grown children and 2 grandchildren.

This year I am retiring from my business, Rosepapa Creative LLC. I create website, graphic design and marketing for small businesses and have been honored to work with dozens of businesses in Arizona and beyond.

I've always been an artist, squeezing in time to work on art whenever I can. I enjoy spending time with my grandkids, camping, and meeting with other artists.

I enjoy working in pencil and pastels. And occasionally oils, and acrylics, depending on the subject. I am also a member of the Colored Pencil Society of America and have been awarded prizes. I've sold my work in galleries, recently in the Sonoran Desert Art Museum in Tucson.

Arizona is my inspiration for a lot of my work and I also enjoy creating portraits.

I lived in California years ago, moved to WA state and then Arizona. In CA I was in 2 big earthquakes. The last one in 1994 (I think). We had so much damage to our house. It was at this time I decided I was done with California. I'm terrified of earthquakes.

On pencil art. I like to work on colored pencils for the blending and the diversity of the medium. And also I can put it down and come back to it later. I can make it look like watercolors or oils. I'm a pencil fanatic! lol. I own Caran d' Ache sets, Derwents, Polychromos, Prisma colors and others. They are oil based and wax based ones. I probably have close to 1,000 pencils!

### **Incidental and Fortuitous Thoughts**

Please share with us your favorite websites for art news, art related valley happenings, and inspiration.

Here is one: [PhoenixArtCircle.com](http://PhoenixArtCircle.com)

We want to know what you are doing art-wise. Please share anything newsworthy or of interest to GVAL members here in the newsletter. You can email me at [jelltay@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jelltay@sbcglobal.net) Please put in the subject line NEWSLETTER.

Do you have happy art news to share on GVAL's social media? If so, contact Michael Mackowski of the GVAL Board.